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TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CHIEF  
WARRANT OFFICER KEVIN  
REICHERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert.

Last week I attended Officer Reichert's funeral in his hometown of Chetek, Wisconsin, a small town of 2,000 people in the northern part of my congressional district.

Chetek is like any small town in rural America. When a member of the community is recognized for outstanding deeds, everyone shares in the pride and joy; and when tragedy strikes, the community shares in the grief. It is unfortunate that last week the people of Chetek came together to bury a hometown hero.

Kevin Reichert lost his life, along with his copilot Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs, during an Apache flight-training mission in Albania while in support of Operation Allied Force. These two men were stationed in Illesheim, Germany, with their families and were the first American casualties of Operation Allied Force in Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Reichert began his military career in the United States Air Force, where he served with great pride and honor. He later transferred to the U.S. Army in order to realize his lifelong dream of flying. Kevin was accepted to an Army aviation flight program. He later distinguished himself as an outstanding and decorated officer. His commitment to his country was an inspiration to those who served with him.

When I attended Kevin's funeral, I had the opportunity to speak with Chief Warrant Officer Paul Clark, who lived with Kevin in Illesheim and served with him in Albania. In his eulogy, Officer Clark honored his fallen fellow soldier by saying, "Kevin always answered the call. He always cared about everyone. He was proud of what he did and his unit was proud of him."

Other pilots in Kevin's squadron said that he took great pride in every task that he was given. One pilot even said that Kevin was considered peacemaker of the troop.

Kevin was a devoted husband to his wife Ridgeley and a loving father of their three children, daughter Carrisa, and sons Christopher and Colten. In Chetek, family, friends and teachers remember him as a young man who always contributed to his community and was never shaken by adversity.

While growing up in Chetek, Kevin displayed early signs of his desire to serve his country and fly. One of his biggest hobbies in high school was flying model airplanes. Kevin was so committed to realizing his dream of flying

that he enlisted in the Air Force just one year before graduating from high school. Shortly after basic training, Kevin returned to Chetek in his uniform to thank those who had helped him along his way.

The teachers at Chetek High School remembered him as a young man with an incredible desire to learn and a willingness to contribute to the world in which he lived. He touched many lives, and those who had contact with him were proud to call him their friend.

This young man from western Wisconsin wanted nothing more than to provide for his family, to serve his country, and to fly helicopters. He was the son every mother wants, the student every teacher dreams of, the husband and father every family needs, and the soldier every Nation must have.

Mr. Speaker, this tragic accident reminds us that all men and women in our Armed Forces operate in dangerous conditions every day to carry out their mission. It reinforces our respect for the sacrifices that they and their families make in order to serve our country and protect our Nation's interests across the globe.

Kevin Reichert's death is a great loss to our Nation and to our community in western Wisconsin. Our Nation owes Officer Reichert and his family a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. His service to our country and his ultimate sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are called the sons of God. And God bless Kevin Reichert, Officer David Gibbs, and their families. And God bless all our young men and women in our Armed Forces throughout the globe who are serving our Nation and protecting our freedom.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, DECLARATION OF POLICY OF UNITED STATES CONCERNING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-150) on the resolution (H. Res. 179) providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4) to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 883, AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-151) on the resolution (H. Res. 180) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 883) to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United

States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN EDWIN  
RIPKEN, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRLICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for a fine job there on behalf of the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Calvin Edwin Ripken, Sr., born on December 17, 1935, in Harford County, Maryland, at a place designated on Harford County maps circa 1940 as "Ripken's Corner."

At the age of nine, young Cal was left fatherless due to an accident that took the life of his father, Arend, at the intersection of U.S. 40 and Maryland Route 7 in Harford County. Fostered by two older brothers, Ollie, 18 years his senior, and Bill, some 10 years older, Cal followed his brothers to every sand lot game they played in the old Susquehanna League.

At the age of 12, Cal became the batboy of the Aberdeen Cannons, a semi-pro baseball club playing in that same Susquehanna League. One day when his signs were being stolen by an opposing team, Manager Fred Baldwin asked young Ripken, "Boy, do you know how to give signs?" Calvin said, "yes." So for the next 2 years, young Cal gave the signs sitting on top of the bats. No one ever figured out where the signs were coming from.

In 1953, Cal Sr. graduated from Aberdeen High School and was offered a soccer scholarship to Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

Cal Sr.'s baseball team began when he played for those same Cannons in 1955 and 1956. He was a catcher, the same position his older brother, Ollie, had held years before. In 1957, Cal accepted a minor league contract with the Baltimore Orioles and was sent to play in Phoenix, Arizona.

On November 30, 1957, Cal married Violet Gross, a marriage that produced four children in Elly, Cal Jr., Fred, and Bill. Cal Sr. subsequently progressed through the Orioles' minor league system until spring training of 1961. During a game as a member of the Rochester Red Wings, Cal was struck by foul tips twice in succession on the right shoulder, causing a disabling injury. Following a short rehabilitation stay in Little Rock, Arkansas, Cal was given the opportunity to turn his talents to managing and became, at 25 years old, the youngest manager in the Orioles' system. From there he rose through that system to become the Orioles' third base coach. And then, in